
By: **Delegates Burns, Amedori, Menes, O'Donnell, Owings, and Redmer**
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2003
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Assembly - Ethics Law - Unethical Political Campaign Practices**

3 FOR the purpose of specifying that the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics shall
4 have jurisdiction to hear complaints against members of the General Assembly
5 who engage in certain unethical conduct in the course of an election campaign;
6 requiring the Joint Committee to recommend certain disciplinary measures
7 against a legislator who the finds has engaged in unethical electoral conduct;
8 and generally relating to the application of the Maryland Public Ethics Law.

9 BY adding to
10 Article - State Government
11 Section 15-522
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article - State Government**

17 15-522.

18 (A) THE JOINT ETHICS COMMITTEE HAS JURISDICTION TO ACT UPON A
19 COMPLAINT BROUGHT AGAINST A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHO IS
20 ALLEGED TO HAVE:

21 (1) MADE INTENTIONALLY FALSE STATEMENTS DURING THE COURSE
22 OF A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN; OR

23 (2) OTHERWISE ENGAGED IN UNETHICAL CONDUCT, DURING THE
24 COURSE OF A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, THAT BRINGS DISREPUTE TO THE MEMBER OR
25 TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS A WHOLE.

26 (B) IF THE JOINT ETHICS COMMITTEE FINDS THAT THE LEGISLATOR AGAINST
27 WHOM A COMPLAINT HAS BEEN FILED ACTED UNETHICALLY IN THE COURSE OF A

1 POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, THE COMMITTEE SHALL MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO
2 DISCIPLINE THE LEGISLATOR IN THE MANNER PRESCRIBED IN THIS SUBTITLE.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
4 effect October 1, 2003.